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PALESTINE POUND FOLLOWS STERLING: ENTIRE ATTENTION OF COUNTRY
FOCUSSED ON CURRENCY POSITION: FALL IN RATE IN EGYPT AND
SYRIA: PEOPLE HOARDING GOLD: FOOD PRICES GO UP.

Jerusalem, Sept. 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Palestine pound, which is based on sterling is falling together with it, particularly in the adjoining countries, Egypt and Syria, with which Palestine does most of its trade, and the attention of the entire population is now focussed on the currency movements. Wholesalers are showing hesitation in doing business on account of the fluctuating sterling quotations, and there is an increase of gold hoarding among the felaheen which is spreading also to other sections of the population. The demand for gold sovereigns instead of paper notes is sending up food and other prices by about 10 per cent.

Until 1927 the currency used in Palestine was the Egyptian pound, which is normally valued at about 21 shillings. It was in April 1924 that the Palestine Government appointed a Commission to consider and report upon the advisability of introducing a special Palestine currency. The principal reason, it was explained in an official Government statement, was that Palestine was losing a large annual sum of money, due to the fact that Egyptian bank notes being in circulation, interest on the money received on these notes accrued to the profit of the National Bank of Egypt, and not to the Palestine Government. The new currency, it was added, is not intended to rest on a merely local basis, but to be fully secured in connection with the British currency.

Some dissatisfaction at the decision to make sterling the unit of Palestine currency was expressed at the time in certain business quarters in Palestine. The Jaffa Jewish Chamber of Commerce, for instance, decided to draw the attention of the High Commissioner to the feeling which existed among its members "that the pound is too high as a unit of parity for Palestine, and to ask for a reduction in accordance with the opinion expressed by the Government Commission of Experts in its report on the currency question".

The Palestine currency came into effect on November 1st., 1927, by an Order in Council. There is a Palestine Currency Board with its seat in London, constituted by the Colonial Secretary, to provide for and control the supply of Palestine currency, to ensure that the currency is maintained in satisfactory condition, and generally to watch over the interests of Palestine as far as currency is concerned. The Board makes all necessary arrangements for the minting of coins, the printing of currency notes and the investment of the funds of the Board. The Board also authorises the issue of currency in Palestine against prepayment in London, and arranges for the issue against currency tendered in Palestine of drafts or telegraphic transfers payable in sterling in London.

The Palestine Currency Order provides for a gold coin of one Palestine pound containing 123.27447 grains of standard gold, the equivalent of the English pound.

The Egyptian currency previously in circulation in Palestine was redeemed during the period November 1st., 1927 to March 31st., 1928 and Egyptian notes, gold, silver and nickel coins were declared by Proclamations dated February 9th. and 29th., 1928 not to be legal tender after March 31st., 1928.

ABOUT TWO THOUSAND JEWISH UNEMPLOYED IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, Sept. 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

On September 1st. there were in Palestine 1,980 Jewish unemployed, the Jewish Agency Department of Immigration and Labour reports. Of these, there were 500 in the Agricultural Settlements, 480 in Haifa, 450 in Tel Aviv, 350 in Jerusalem, and 200 in the Emek.

According to the figures presented by the Department of Immigration and Labour to the last Zionist Congress held at Basle in July, the number of Jewish unemployed in Palestine was 810 on July 1st., 1929; 715 on January 1st., 1930; 497 on July 1st., 1930; 1,486 on January 1st., 1931; and 1,510 on March 1st., 1931. These figures did not include the unemployed in the colonies, it was added, as unemployment there is periodical. In the summer of 1929, the report said, the number of unemployed in the colonies was about 200, in the summer of 1930 it rose to about 500, and now (1931) it amounts to about 1,000, a great number of whom are, however, at least partially employed.

PALESTINE JEWS CONTRIBUTED £25,000 TO ZIONIST FUNDS DURING PAST YEAR.

Jerusalem, Sept. 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jews of Palestine contributed during the last twelve months about £25,000 to Zionist funds. About £14,000 was collected in small sums for the Jewish National Fund, about £7,500 in larger contributions for the Palestine Foundation Fund (Keren Hayesod), and about £3,000 in "shekolim", or cards entitling holders to vote in Zionist Congress elections. These amounts are exclusive of casual collections for persecuted Zionists in Russia and other purposes.

The "Davar", the Palestine Labour daily, estimates that the per capita contribution of the Jews in Palestine exceeds that of the Jews of Russia before the war.

DR. WEIZMANN INVITED BY GERMAN ZIONISTS TO HEAD GERMAN KEREN HAYESOD CAMPAIGN.

Berlin, Sept. 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Executive Committee of the German Zionist Federation has unanimously adopted a resolution welcoming Dr. Weizmann's decision to accept the invitation of the South African Zionists to go out to South Africa to head the Keren Hayesod campaign there, and asking him, before he leaves for South Africa, to visit Germany as the guest of the German Zionist Federation. We are convinced, the resolution says, that Dr. Weizmann's visit, apart from the significance it will have on the inauguration of the winter campaign of the Keren Hayesod, will also be of great importance at this moment for the promotion of our campaign for enrolling members of the Zionist Federation. Dr. Weizmann's qualities of leadership, his Zionist faith and his compelling force of conviction will win new people for the Zionist idea in Germany, will animate Zionists with an increased realisation of their duty, and will give us added hope, and help forward our work for the upbuilding of Palestine.

JEWISH TOWN OF LODZ DYING: 70 PER CENT. OF JEWISH POPULATION SAID TO BE DEPENDENT ON CHARITY.

Warsaw, Sept. 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jewish town of Lodz is dying, the "Najer Hajnt" here writes. That great factory town which grew up with American rapidity, is now the classic centre of Jewish poverty and distress, it says. There is no place in Poland, or probably anywhere else where want is so blatant as in Lodz.

For the most part, it proceeds, the sufferers are people who have hitherto been earning a more or less comfortable living and never imagined that they would have to stretch out their hands as beggars. There are to-day tens of thousands of Jews in Lodz who are dependent for their crust of bread on what others give them. The relief figures of the Jewish Community of Lodz show that over 38 per cent. of all the Jews in Lodz are now drawing the dole from the Jewish Community.

The total Jewish population of Lodz is 180,000 (40,000 families). 21,744 families pay their dues to the Community. Of the rest 15,488 families, numbering 69,696 souls, are in receipt of aid from the Community. This works out at about 39 per cent. of all the Jews in Lodz.

In addition to the Jewish Community, the report goes on, there are many Jewish relief organisations in Lodz which are engaged in allocating relief funds to thousands of Jews. There is the Jewish Rescue Committee; there are scores of philanthropic societies, and if all those Jews who are receiving relief from all these sources are added to those on the books of the Jewish Community, the report says, we arrive at the staggering conclusion that 70 per cent. of the Jews in Lodz are dependent on charity in order to live.

Of the rest, the "Hajnt" proceeds, there are thousands of Jewish workers, artisans, shopkeepers and small traders who are still managing to live without having to apply for charity, but their standard of life has been reduced to little above the starvation level. The Jewish Rescue Committee in Lodz, it says, has called a conference of press representatives to urge them to alarm public opinion with regard to the catastrophic position of the Jews of Lodz, and to call for a mobilisation of all the forces of Polish Jewry to save them from annihilation. The Jewish Rescue Committee in Lodz, it is pointed out, gave assistance during the past five years by means of loans to 22,000 families, to an amount of about 4½ million zlotys. Now its funds are running out. The Joint Distribution Committee has completely stopped its subsidy, and the Jewish population of the city is no longer able to support it with contributions. During the last seven months the contributions have fallen alarmingly. During the whole of the seven months only 7,000 zlotys came in as membership fees, as compared with over 60,000 zlotys in 1927. At the same time, those Jews who hold loans from the Rescue Committee are unable to repay them and where in former years the loans were always repaid promptly, now they fall due without any expectation of repayment. The money is simply not there. It is no exaggeration, the paper concludes, to say that Lodz Jewry is literally being wiped off the map.

JEWISH FREETHINKERS' ASSOCIATION FORMED IN WARSAW ON KOL NIDRE NIGHT.

Warsaw, Sept. 24th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The Jewish workers of Warsaw celebrated Yom Kippur this year by transforming it into an anti-clericalist day, the "Naje Folkscajtung", the daily organ of the Jewish Socialist Party, the Bund, writes. Besides the imposing mass meeting held on Yom Kippur night, it says, we had an inaugural meeting at the trade union headquarters of a Jewish Socialist Freethinkers' Society. The project has been under consideration for a long time to carry on an atheist and anti-clericalist activity among the Jewish working masses.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION INCLUDES VISIT TO JEWISH CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC IN ITS PROGRAMME.

London, Sept. 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The British Association, which is now meeting in London, has decided to include as part of its programme a visit to the Child Guidance Clinic of the Jewish Health Organisation of Great Britain, the pioneer child guidance clinic in England, whose work has attracted a great deal of attention in medical and scientific circles.

A party of about 20 or 25 scientists, mostly members of the Psychological Section of the British Association, will visit the Clinic next Tuesday afternoon, in order to inspect the arrangements and to study its methods of work. The President of the Psychological Section of the British Association is Dr. Charles S. Myers, who is a Vice-President of the Jewish Health Organisation of Great Britain, and one of the Honorary Consultants of the Clinic, and Dr. Victoria Hazlitt, one of the Psychologists of the Clinic, is an Honorary Secretary of the Psychological Section of the British Association.

BIALIK ARRIVES IN POLAND: WILL HEAD CAMPAIGN FOR HEBREW SCHOOLS.

Warsaw, Sept. 25th. (Jewish Telegraphic Agency).

The famous Hebrew poet, Mr. Ch. N. Bialik, arrived here to-day from Palestine in order to head the campaign which is being organised on behalf of the schools of the Hebrew cultural organisation, Tarbuth, which are faced by a crisis owing to lack of funds.

A big crowd, including representatives of the Hebrew and Yiddish Pen Clubs, the Polish Pen Club, the Zionist Central Committee in Poland and the Central Committee of the Tarbuth Organisation, was at the railway station to receive Mr. Bialik, who will stay in Poland for about six weeks, and will take part in the Tarbuth Conference which will be held during the intermediate days of the Feast of Tabernacles.